

Catherine Schell will provide
glamour — when she's not appearing
as a rock or an insect.

no. 4
JUNE 89

CATHERINE SCHELL
CAREER SHOTS



Dear fans,

finally after a long time CAREER SHOTS is back with its fourth issue - and a lot of changes!

All the following changes have to be made, to keep the club alive. Recently there was so little new material about our favourite actress that it would be impossible to get an issue out every three months, at least not with twenty pages as it was now. Also, there are absolutely no stories available to print. One reason is, that not many of the members send in stories that can be printed and the other reason is that the ones I have are so long that they have to be parted in at least three parts in three issues and that is not very good as the last story, "Transition", that was parted in three parts, showed. And, one cannot always count upon stories written by Catherine Schell, because she has not much time to write such things. For this issue was planned to have a report from her recent trip to Hungary, but shortly after she was back at home, she got a new job that took all her time and still takes it now. For more of this see "Catherine's news".

Well, and all these thoughts and some other not so important reasons led to the following changes. They had to be made, on the other hand, if they will not be made, the club has to be given up, and I do not think, anyone prefers this solution. So, the changes are: From this issue on CAREER SHOTS will come out only three times per year, in June, October and February. And, there will be alternating so-called "small issues" containing everything important as News, Reviews, photos, TV-appearances, letters, short stories,... with "big issues", containing as an extra a big story.

The "small issues" will be around 10-12 pages, and the "big issues" will be around 35-40 pages long. It comes once a year, as there is a long story available. The "small issues" will be twice a year. Dues remain the same, as there is the same amount of paper as with four regular issues it had been.

Now I hope, you all agree with these changes and the club lives on for a long, long time.

By the way, if anyone of you has some good long stories for the next issues, or reviews or drawings or whatever, please, do send them in!!!

Now we go on with the News of Catherine, and that's quite a lot this time:

CATHERINE'S news

Catherine spent the last week of May with her mother in Hungary. She was there for the first time since she left as a child. A report about this trip comes probably in the next issue. She also spent some days in Munich with her mother, and immediately after she came back from Hungary she got a new job on the eight episode british TV-series "Wish me luck", directed by her husband. She will work on the series until late October. At the moment she is on the set located on some places in France. She is back in England in late July.

Before this she has done two other jobs, guest roles in the TV-series' "The bill" and "Howard's way".

But Catherine wrote me a letter in which she explains it all in detail, so let's have her say what's important:

"I had done two jobs since we talked some months ago. The first was an episode in a police series called "The bill" where I played a wealthy stuck-up wife of a silver Bullion dealer who manages to get her husband's Rolls-Royce stolen and doesn't report the theft to the police because she had an appointment with her hairdresser which she thought more important. The Rolls-Royce which is being driven by two 'hooligans' almost runs some people down on a zebra crossing. The police witnesses this and give chase. This is when they realize the car has been stolen and wonder why it has not been reported. The wife is then interviewed at the station during which they discover £200.000 worth of the silver bullion in the boot of the car.

It's quite a funny scene where the wife plays it completely cool and shows no surprise at all and explains who her husband is and why the bullion would be there but admits it may have been slightly careless of her husband to have forgotten such a valuable commodity as it could so easily be stolen.

The police, not believing her entirely, continue to investigate and come upon a lover's triangle. The wife is having an affair with her husband's partner. (By the way, 'Bill' is a

nick-name for the police).

The next job was again an episode in another popular TVseries called 'Howard's way' which is an english version of 'Dallas' by the sea. It is to do with very wealthy families who all have big yachts and other financial interests and are either secretly having affairs with each other or trying to ruin each others businesses. I played a french Public Relations woman who organizes fashion shows. We did all our scenes in Malta. I think one of the shortest books in the world could be titled 'The good food guide to Malta'. They had nothing but rabbit stew to offer. I hate rabbit stew so I didn't eat very much!

The programme I'm now doing is 'Wish me luck!' It's a story (in 8 episodes) of the english agents who were sent into France to work with the french resistance during the war. The story is based on fact and tells of a tragic incident which took place in the Vercours (the mountain range above Grenoble). There was a strong and active resistance there, and the British instigated an uprising in order to divert German military forces away from the two invasions which were due to take place (Normandy and the South coast of France). The British promised to parachute guns, amunition, etc. and 2000 paratroops to the resistance. But due to political decisions at the time in London - i.e. De Gaul did not want to help the Communist factions within the Resistance, this help never materialized. At the last moment the english radio operator in the Vercours received a message from her British controllers telling her to delay the uprising but tragically she misinterpreted the message and the uprising went ahead without any of the vital supplies necessary. This lead to a devastating massacre of most of the resistance and many of the english agents who faught alongside their french colleagues. It's a very exciting, if tragic story and I play an english agent who is head of her area. She is a fantastic horsewoman (I do a lot of riding, which is my passion) and she was once married to a french count who is now 'Prefect' of police and collaborating with the Nazis. She meets up with him by accident and later visits him to try to get help from him for the resistance. He, to begin with, refuses and even threatens to give her up to the Germans but then realizes he is still in

love with her, as she is with him, and eventually goes over to her side giving all the help he can. When they try to escape during the battle after the german attack her husband is killed and she is left with another english agent to find the place from which they are to be rescued. The story ends with the few remaining English escaping in a vehicle coming across the rumbling of tanks. The tanks are American. They are saved but there is no joy in their survival because they have all lost their friends or their loved ones. The price was far too was far too high.

'Wish me luck' will come out in
January 1990."

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promised to parachute guns, ammunition,
etc. and 2,000 paratroops to the resistance.
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took place without any of the vital supplies
needed for the up-rising.

So, let us all wish Catherine much luck with "Wish me luck". Let's hope, the series will be as popular all over the world as was Space:1999 twelve years ago and Catherine gets an enormous popularity again.

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Some members reported some more television-appearances of Catherine, which were unknown till now:

Begin 70's she starred in a thriller by Brian Clemens called "The next voice you see";

1973 the series "Arthur of the Britons" was first shown;

Catherine appeared in the episode "The Girl from Rome" (photo).



Benedicta and the roman captain at Arthurs dinner-table. The king was in love with the shipwrecked princess from Rome. He wanted to marry her.

(photo from a book to the series)

She played the title character, a roman princess called Benedicta. Co-starring were Brian Blessed and Alfred Lynch;

In "The rivals of Sherlock Holmes" Catherine starred as Maria Wollinski, a russian comtess. Philip Marlowe played her husband in the episode 'The sensible action of Lt Holst'.

A revised and updated version of all her Film- and television-appearances will be featured in the next issue of CAREER SHOTS.

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And now, we all wish Catherine a happy 45th birthday on July 17, 1989. May all her wishes for the future come true and all the best from all her fans all over the world!

Happy Birthday!

member biography

Eleonore Claassen, 1740-47 Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta,
Canada T2T2S2:

"Hello, my name is Eleonore Claassen, but I let all my friends in fandom and penpals call me Ellie. It's also easy to spell. I'm single, 32 and still living at home (much cheaper). Besides my interests in Sci-fi, I'm also an avid sports nut. I closely follow hockey and football. You may call me a 'homey'. If there's hockey on one channel and a fav show on the other, I would tape the other show. Aside from Space, I'm also heavy into Trek and Battlestar Galactica. In Galactica, I run two role-playing clubs who are looking for new members. In these two clubs they let you create a character in the colonial universe. I'm an avid sci-fic collector and tape my fav shows. I love going to Cons - if I can afford them. Love to write to anyone who cares to."

Members, please send your bios also to be printed in "C.S."

TV-APPEARANCES

GREAT BRITAIN:

Catherine's episode of "THE BILL" appeared on TV in May, and "CALLAN" was on regional TV, also in May.

HOLLAND + BELGIUM:

In Holland "THE BILL" is also currently on TV, every monday. In Belgium "RETURN OF THE PINK PANTHER" was on BRT 2 on June 5.

CANADA:

Recently the following films starring Catherine appeared on TV: "Spoils of war", "One by one" and "Napoleon and love".

GERMANY:

"CALLAN" was on SAT1 on March, 30; "ASSIGNMENT K" was on SUPER CHANNEL on May, 4 and "RETURN OF THE PINK PANTHER" on DDR 2 on May 12. "GUARDIAN OF PIRI" appeared on the Easter weekend, and Year II of "SPACE 1999" currently airs every Saturday on PRO 7.

"ON THE BLACK HILL" will air in the cinemas in Europe in October. The film (Director: Andrew Grieve) won on the festival of San-Sebastian. (Picture from magazine KINO No. 5/1989)

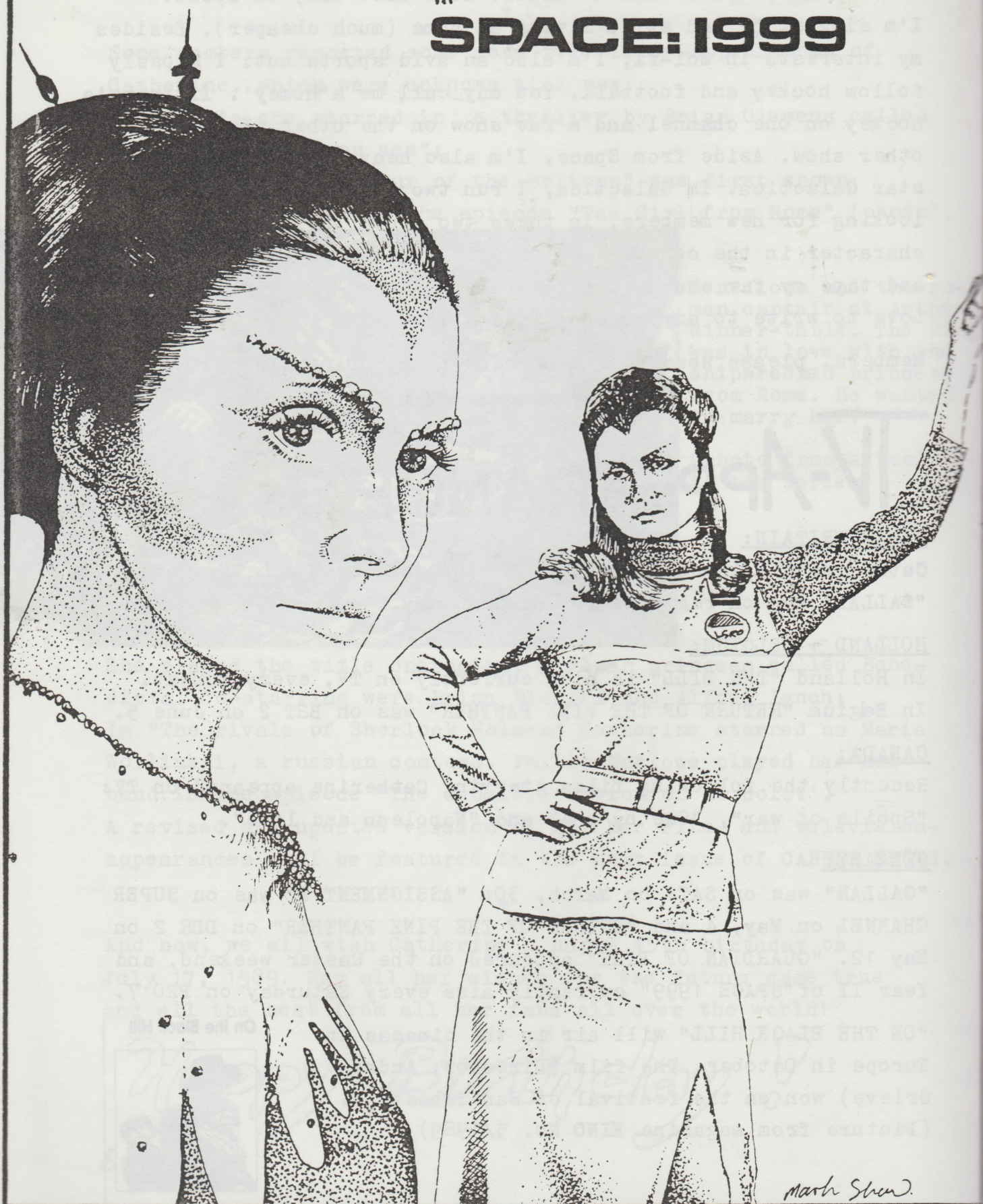
On the Black Hill



Das Walliser Drama (Regie: Andrew Grieve) siegte beim San-Sebastian-Festival

CATHERINE SCHELL as MAYA

in
SPACE: 1999



Mark Shon.

THE MIRACLE GIRL FROM OUTER SPACE

"She is gorgeous, sexy and has a computer-like brain," is how producer Fred Freiberger describes the wonder girl from Outer Space, Maya, in the new "Space 1999" series.

Because she knows the secrets of molecular transformation, Maya has the uncanny ability to transform herself into other life forms. She can immediately become another human being, an animal of any kind, a tree or even a rock, a monster or a dove, an ocelot or a bird of prey.

Because of her scientific knowledge, she becomes a Science Officer on Alpha when she is rescued from her own doomed planet.

The search for the most fabulous female of all time necessitated testing 154 actresses of numerous nationalities — and Catherine Schell was chosen.

The tall, beautiful, Hungarian-born actress has recently won plaudits for her performance in the Peter Sellers comedy "Return of the Pink Panther," one of the many films and television shows in which she has attracted attention, notably as Napoleon's glamorous mistress Marie Walewska in the TV series "Napoleon and Love" and a documentary, "Search for the Nile."

By a coincidence, her first major role in a British film was in "Moon Zero Two," in which she portrayed a girl who went to the moon in search of her missing astronaut brother.

Television productions in which she has appeared include "Paul Temple," "The Troubleshooters," "Dial M for Murder," "Family at War," "The Sweeney," the Bette Davis feature "Madame Sin," the Brian Clemens thriller "The Next Voice You See," "The Persuaders" (with Tony Curtis and Roger Moore), "The Adventurer" (with Gene Barry), "Arthur" (with Alfred Lynch) and "Looking for Clancy." Among her feature films: "On Her Majesty's Secret Service," "Callan" and "The Black Windmill" (with Michael Caine).

Born in Hungary, Catherine is the daughter of the Baron and Baroness Schell Von Bauschlott, but her father renounced his title when the family fled to the United States during the Communist take-over in Hungary. Formerly a diplomat in the Hungarian Embassy at Washington D.C., he returned there with his family and became tours manager for visiting European orchestras until going back to Europe.

Catherine therefore spent her schooldays in America, first of all in Washington and then Staten Island, New York, completing her education in Munich, Germany. "So" she says, "I can't help feeling that my role as Maya is apt casting because I am an alien myself — a foreigner in every country! Even in Hungary, where I was born. I gave up my nationality when my family fled to America. I have an American passport and an English resident permit. But I am virtually an alien wherever I go, so it's natural enough for me to be an alien in "Space 1999!"

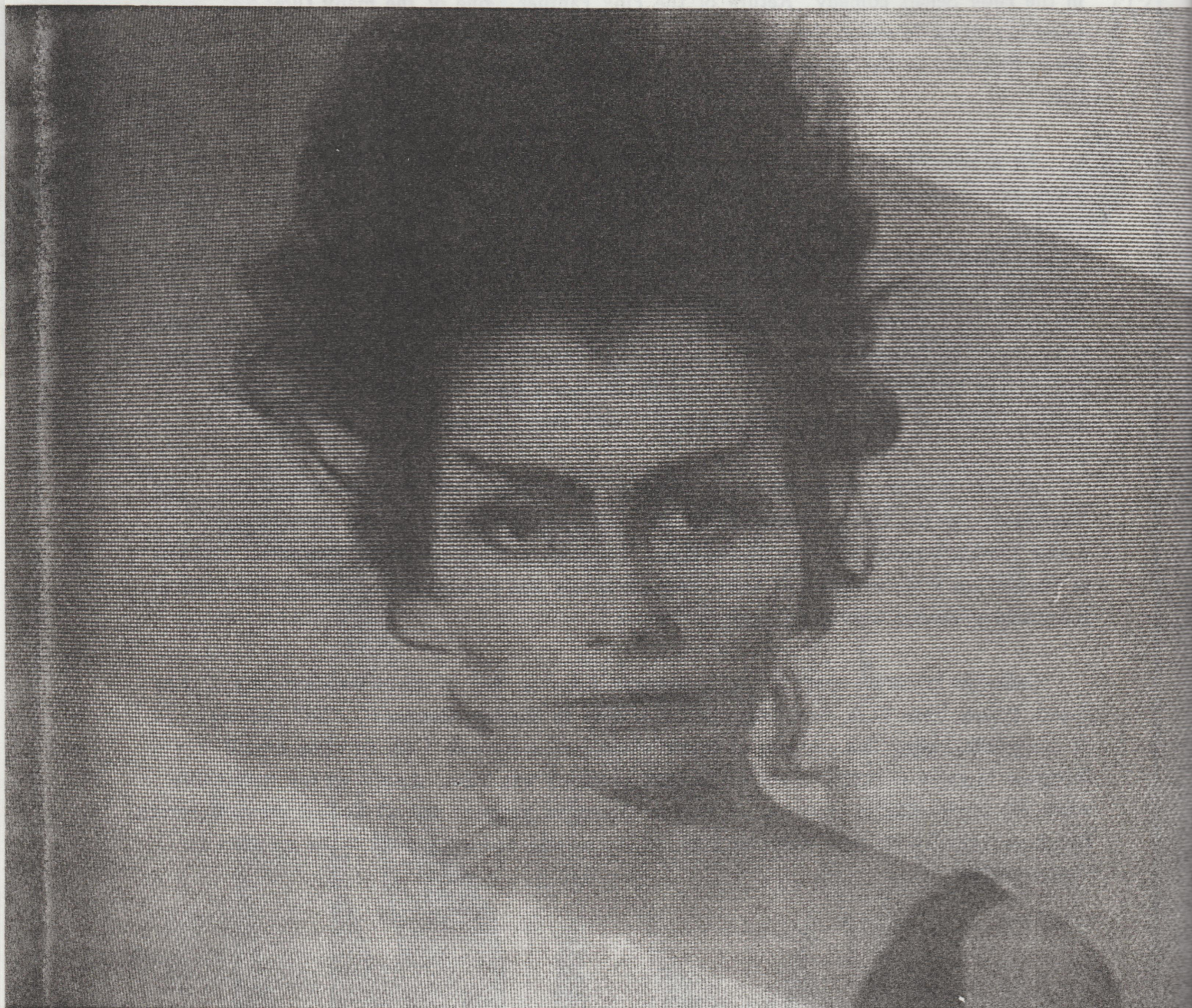
CAREER SHOTS "SPECIAL" 1
THE MIRACLE GIRL FROM OUTER SPACE

When embarking on a stage and screen career, she changed her name to Caterina Von Schell, later Anglicising it to Catherine Schell.

While still a drama student, she appeared in a radio play, then played a brief part in a film before going to Brazil to play her first lead in "Lana, Queen of the Amazons." After this, she was based in Munich with her family but filmed all over Europe and elsewhere.

Of her role as Maya, she says: "I have feline looks, and my make-up is marvellous. Transforming myself into all sorts of other creatures is intriguing. To help in these changes, I have to study the animals and other creatures beforehand and to help the transformation I slip into poses which suggest them. I've learned to crouch, snarl, growl. They never taught me these things at drama school!"

(From an ITC promo to SPACE:1999)



Maya shortly before she transforms (Catacombs of the moon)

THE EVOLUTION OF MAYA

What follows is a continuation of my analysis of Maya from issue one of "Career Shots". But this time I want to look at how this character evolved over the time of the second season, not just from a technical viewpoint as Alpha's Science Officer, but also from an emotional standpoint as well; her relationship with Tony Verdeschi, Helena Russell, John Koenig, Alan Carter, and the rest of those on Alpha.

TECHNICAL

The first topic of discussion will be Maya's role as Alpha's Science Officer. and how she grew into the role as year two unfolded.

Her world is gone. Maya has lost everything: Her father and mother, her world, the future of Psychon's race is uncertain (her brother and the others, and their fate, are unknown to her), and at first her own future is in doubt. But the Alphans have found a new friend and to show his confidence in her, John Koenig makes her Alpha's Science Officer.

Her role as Science Officer starts a little slowly at first. In "The Exiles", Maya is more a Command Center operative than a Science Officer. She merely is there to operate the equipment and report her findings rather than also give her own opinion and advice on the situation.

But as the season progressed, Maya becomes more and more involved in her role as the head of the Research Department. In "One Moment of Humanity", after everything is tried to increase the heat in Alpha, it is Maya who suggests trying magnetic attraction and she designed the device that used chemical reaction to generate heat.

But it was Maya's analysis of the alien computer that showed the viewer that this lady is very intelligent. She was able to figure it out after studying it for just a few minutes. Maya's report to Koenig, Helena, and Tony was the key to destroying it.

The next episode that highlighted Maya's talents further was "Journey To Where". Having been transported to Earth in the 14th century by mistake, it was Maya who suggested that they could only be on Earth despite what the evidence suggested. The probability of them being anywhere else wasn't acceptable to Maya. And what also happened in this episode, as in "One Moment of Humanity", the command personnel (Koenig and Verdeschi) began seeking Maya's advice. When she suggests that John, Helena, and Alan could be in another time, Dr. Logan rejected the suggestion, but Tony doesn't. I think that he has a gut feeling that Maya is right and pushes Dr. Logan to begin his search through time. And Maya's role gets stronger when she warns him that there is only ten hours left.

I believe that this episode was a key one in the development of Maya's role as Alpha's Science Officer. At this point in my analysis, I believe that there's an important point to make, and that is: Maya respected the jobs of the people around her. She never told Alan how to fly an Eagle or told Pete Garforth how to fix them.

I think that the next key episode in her development is "New Adam, New Eve". With Koenig's skepticism of Magus' intentions, the rest of the landing party also became skeptical of his motives. After trying to confront Magus head on, and finding that that didn't work, Koenig and his people turned to science and deception to defeat him. It began with Maya's analysis of the scans that she took of Magus' anatomy. From her explanation, Koenig formulates his plan of action.

"A B Chrysalis" showed us another ability of this lovely lady, as did "Seed of Destruction". "A B Chrysalis" showed us how Maya delights in beating computers at their own game--computing. Koenig asks Alan for an ETA to the planet and Maya beats the Eagle's computers. At the end of the episode, she explains how she is able to accomplish this feat. Her explanation gives us an insight into how her people solved complex mathematical problems. But this episode, and others, showed Maya's coolness under pressure.

"Seed of Destruction" is another example of Maya's evolution. She is, by now, well established as Alpha's Science Officer and her intellect is well respected. But she again shows another aspect of her racial characteristics. She is able to sense the emotions of other life forms. The double of Koenig was a life form able to take the form of a reflection, but not the essence of that life. She sensed a "coldness" in this "Koenig clone". She was the one who had to convince the others of trouble. Tony and Helena didn't need much convincing (Tony because of his love for her and his trust in her, and Helena's love for John Koenig), but Alan was a harder sell; probably because of his military training.

"A Matter of Balance", "The Lambda Factor", and "The Immunity Syndrome" continued to highlight Maya's scientific abilities. She was the one that came to the conclusion of a matter/anti-matter cataclysm on the planet. She also, from watching "The Lambda Factor", designed the force field cabinet. This is a conclusion that I've come to because she's the only one seen working on the unit. "The Immunity Syndrome" not only shows her analytical ability, but she is also in command of Alpha while the command personnel are on the planet.

So, to conclude this part of the analysis, I find Maya to be a brilliant lady. There is no telling how far this character could have gone. Unfortunately, we'll never know. Fortunately, however, the fans have picked up where the writers have left off. Also, after saying all of the above, I have changed my views to a great degree on one of the weaknesses that I stated in my analysis in issue one: A need to do a better job on Maya's scientific abilities. That's changed.

EMOTIONS

I must start with the first episode of Year 2, "The Metamorph", when discussing Maya's emotional growth. Up until the time of the arrival of the Alphans, Maya held her father in great esteem, almost in reverence. She had built up such a devotion to her father that she couldn't believe what Koenig was telling her; she had to be

forced to see her father for what he was: A man obsessed by his dream to restore their planet. His determining right from wrong had been distorted by his dream.

At the end of the episode, Mentor says that, "...I only wanted to do good." It seems, as Maya believed, that his computer had some kind of control over her father, that the computer had taken on more than Mentor's purpose of restoring the planet. It seems to me that Psyche had perverted his dream into one of survival at all costs no matter what it took. Mentor, in a sense, was a pawn. Maya even tells her father that, "Come with us father! Leave Psyche. Psyche made you do evil." There's the link I think.

After her father's death, and the destruction of her world, Maya was emotionally shattered. She even tells John Koenig that, "Anywhere else but on Psychon, I'll be an alien." But Koenig's response to her was perfect. Maya, deep down, knew that she had indeed found a new home.

What I tried to depict in my story "Transition" was the healing process that Maya had to go through. Still, after her time with the Alphans, her memories of her world are both happy and sad. Witness her relating of Psychon's history to Koenig in "The Rules of Luton". She looks away when John brings up "Psychon jokes". And the meeting of Dorzak was both joyous and painful, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

In the next three episodes, we begin to see the relationship between Maya and Tony and between Maya and Helena. In "The Exiles", Helena and Maya have a real nice scene in Helena's quarters. Helena expresses her admiration for the young alien woman. But Maya also shows a budding friendship with John Koenig by helping Helena play a joke on him by becoming a duplicate of Helena to test his perceptiveness. How many people would take a joke from a stranger? John took his ribbing in good fun. Maya's sense of humor is also displayed for the first time.

At the end of "The Exiles" and in "One Moment of Humanity", we see Tony and Maya forming a bond between them. In "The Exiles", Maya tests Tony's ability to accept a person for what they are. He's taken aback by the old woman now sitting in Maya's position. "Shallow. That's what you are Tony. What difference does it make what I look like on the outside? It's still me on the inside..." Anyway, at the end one gets the feeling that there's a bond forming between the two. I also get the feeling that this is one way that Maya uses to find out more about what makes these people think the way that they do.

As I mentioned earlier, Tony felt a trust for Maya in "Journey To Where". They even teased each other (Maya over Tony's beer and Tony on Maya's appearance). But he eventually told her that he was fascinated by her.

"All That Glitters" and "The Taybor" brought out the willingness of the Alphans to risk their lives to help save Maya's life. In "All That Glitters" we also see Tony's jealousy over Dave Reilly's flirtations toward Maya. We also saw Maya's ability to handle such a situation.

"The Taybor's" attention to Maya also shows his shallowness. Her beauty was the only attraction he had for her. He wasn't interested in her personality or her abilities. In the end we see



Drawing by
Daryl
Santosh



MATHSPY

Maya's temper as her anger rises over the fact that she hadn't been asked her opinion about going with him. Maya and Koenig devise a plan that causes Taybor great consternation. He finally gives in and returns Maya to Alpha. It is hoped that Taybor learned something from this meeting with Maya and the Alphans.

By now Maya has matured greatly. She is beginning to be able to handle the problems now faced by the Alphans. She is learning that the "real world" isn't idyllic, that it is complex with many potential problems and many possible solutions. Despite this, Maya retains a very high ethical standard. For example, she is fearful that the adjusted laser weapon may kill the alien in "All That Glisters", and yet, she risks her life to get them off of the planet. In the end she helps to save the rock life form by bringing rain to the barren planet.

Her friendship with John Koenig is further explored in "The Rules of Luton" while trying to stay alive. Here, her background is further explored. She explains how she got caught up in her father's dream. I think that this gives us a further understanding as to how Maya felt about her people and her father, despite all that has happened.

There is one thing that she did learn was that at times, one must kill to save their own lives. Neither Koenig nor Maya likes it, but that is sometimes the reality.

"Brian The Brain" again shows Maya's perceptive nature as she has reservations about Brian's motives. Her mistrust proves correct and Tony and Fraser take after the Swift. We also see Tony's continuing admiration for Maya.

The next several episodes continue to explore Maya's ethics and belief systems and the emotion of frustration. "A B Chrysalis", as mentioned earlier, shows Maya's constant concern for her friends and colleagues. But she is also given an order to fire the lasers if ordered by Koenig. You can hear the stress in her voice when she explains this to Alan after his recovery. Speaking of which, she risked her life to save him, as she has done before and will do in the future (future episodes).

Maya prefers the way of peace, but will fight to defend herself and her friends.

Oh, before I go on, "New Adam, New Eve" gave us a look at how Maya felt about religion and divine power. Comparative Universal Theology was a hobby of hers. So, another piece of her background is filled in.

"Seed of Destruction" not only showed her scientific abilities, but also that Maya is a very strong-willed woman. She's not afraid to confront Koenig or Alan when she knows that she is right. Remember, Maya wasn't sure that the real Koenig had been left on the asteroid. She suspected that the Koenig that had returned to Alpha wasn't truly "their" Koenig, but she was only sure once she arrived on the asteroid.

Her confrontation with Alan, and Tony's support, shows that she is comfortable in her role as Science Officer, and that she now has the full respect of her peers. This is an excellent character conflict episode.

"The Beta Cloud" is where confirmation of Tony's love for Maya (and she for him) is made. This episode also teaches Maya that one

doesn't give up even if the odds are against you. The scene where Maya expresses her frustrations over whatever they try just doesn't work. Tony convinces her not to give up. In the end they try an attack on the cloud itself, to no avail. An attack on the robot itself proves the only course of action.

Finally, they make their final stand and Tony confesses his love for her. So, desperation breeds desperate measures.

"Space Warp", though it could have been better, it does show that Maya must be in constant control of her metamorph abilities or she can become a threat to those she loves. Once the illness takes that control away, she can be a terror. This, I think, is always in the back of her mind. By the way, Helena, Maya's closest female friend, is there to try and help. If you'll notice, Maya yells Helena's name during her moment of pain in "The Dorcons" episode. Thus, these two have a very close friendship, although Maya explodes at her in "The Immunity Syndrome" when she tells Helena, "...I can tell you what we both want to hear! There's a chance." She was referring to the crash landing of the Eagle onto the planet.

"Dorzak", as I mentioned earlier, was both a time of joy and pain for Maya. She was so happy when she was told of Dorzak's being on the alien craft. But like with her father, she has trouble in believing that Dorzak has become evil to the point where he's adopted the attitude that the ends justifies the means. She is torn between her loyalty to her Alphan friends and to a member of her own race. But I think that her desire for the truth comes to the fore and she is again forced to see that there is good and bad in everyone. She even questions the mental stability of her people. She asks, "Is there some flaw in the Psychon nature that turns us all into monsters? First my Father, and now you." Still, Maya represents the best of her race.

To sum up. Year 2 saw the introduction of, in my opinion, one of the most interesting characters in TV-SF history. Despite the critics who have called her "a female Spock", a gimmick (hey, SF is nothing but gimmickry, and Maya isn't), token alien, etc., she remains a wonderful character. Maya, due to Catherine Schell's acting ability, evolved over the second season. She started as a shattered young woman, sheltered, and she evolved into a dedicated, mature, and dependable person. She proved her ability time after time, quickly gaining the trust of her new friends. Maya also formed relationships with the Alphans, falling in love with one Tony Verdeschi. Oh, did anyone notice that Maya NEVER called John Koenig by his first name of John? That's how much respect that she has for him. She either called him Commander or Commander Koenig.

Well, that's it. Feel free to add your own opinions to what I've said. Let me know what you think.

Kerry Keene

MATHSPY

MATHSPY is a series provided by the BBC at the request of the School Broadcasting Council for the United Kingdom; Age 14-16.

Scripts: John Tully; Producer: David Roseveare.

Mathspy is a resource, consisting of Notes, of which some of them are printed here and a dramatised television serial broadcast in ten 10-minute episodes, designed to be used in recorded form.

Each episode ends with our heroes confronted with a problem which should lead them closer to the arch-villain known as THE FACTOR but they do not solve it before the end of the episode.

The Characters: Major Percival Hurst (Q1) (Frederick Jaeger) runs Section Q of the counter-espionage service - when it is not running him.

Samantha Jones (Q5) (Seeta Indrani) is one of the more competent members of Section Q.

Rick Seymour (Q7) (Gavin Kitchen) is a relative newcomer to Section Q. Lisa Wentworth, CBE (CATHERINE SCHELL), is Hurst's Head of Department, responsible directly to the Prime Minister.

Joseph (Gertan Klauber), Agent of the international master spy The Factor. Does a smooth operator lie under his solid exterior? Lucy Digby (Helen Masters), another agent, involved with the secret explosive DD2X.

Boris Hanovitch (George Mikell), pseudonym Molyneux, a very experienced KGB agent.

Mrs Carroway (Patricia Varley) occupies a basement flat below Lucy - is her gossip entirely innocent?

Matilda Hartshorn (Marcia Ashton) seems to be a sweet old lady - but what is she hiding?

Prof. Henry Martin (Philip Anthony) runs the government research laboratory working on DD2X.

Frank Hammond (Laurie Seth Yates) works for the Factor's organisation - but in what capacity?

Could one of them be THE FACTOR ?

Episode 1: Needle and Thread

Rick Seymour, otherwise Agent Q7, is a new recruit to Section Q, run by Agent Q1, Major Percival Hurst. Hurst is not happy with Rick's early progress and after a stormy interview, sends him off with a flea in his ear.

In a London park, Rick inadvertently gives the correct responses to coded questions and is given a needlework magazine. He also meets Agent Q5, Samantha Jones, who explains what has happened - he has been mistaken for an agent of The Factor who runs a private spy network.

The magazine contains extra pages with a mathematical problem called "Quilting with pictures". It leaves five words which should form a message: What is it?

Episode 2: More waste, less speed

The Head of Department, Lisa Wentworth CBE, is ordering Hurst to reduce his Section's level of expenditure when Rick enters with the decoded message: 'Meeting Stables Nevesmoor Wednesday 5112'. Today is Wednesday! Nevesmoor is apparently a village in Devon, near Exeter. Rick thinks that the Factor will be at the meeting: Section Q should be there to catch him. Lisa congratulates Rick on his initiative and suggests to Hurst that Rick be put in charge of the operation. Fearing dismissal, Hurst agrees but after Lisa has left he cunningly tells Rick to find his own way to Nevesmoor without any financial assistance. When Rick has gone, Hurst borrows his secretary's Mini...

Eventually, Rick and Hurst reach The Stables tea room in Nevesmoor. Sam is already there, having used a different form of transport. The Factor is not there, but Sam refers to 'Quilting with Pictures' where it says 'Our patterns can be copied as shown or in reverse'. 'Nevesmoor' and 'Stables' become 'Room Seven' and 'Selbats'. "There's a Selbats Hotel in Tooting," says Sam, "and 5112 becomes 2115 - 9.15 in the evening." It is now early 5 pm. They start to study train and bus timetables, car hire charges... Can they get to Tooting in time?

Episode 3: Play your cards

In Selbats Hotel, Section Q have placed a secret camera which photographs the Factor's agents on their way to Room Seven which Sam has 'bugged': Sam, Rick and Hurst listen from Room Six. The Factor addresses the agents by their code names East, South and West, which also indicate where they are to sit at a card table. Each agent, including the Factor (North) is dealt another card - until each player has three cards all different numbered from 1 to 10. They lay them face upwards on the table. The object is to construct as many numbers as possible, by addition and subtraction, using one or more of one's cards at a

time. West, for example, has 2, 5, 9 and can form $2=2$; $5-2=3$; $9-5=4$; $5=5$; $5+2=7$; etc. The player who makes the most numbers will be chosen for an important mission. Our heroes hear the Factor congratulate the winner but do not know who it is. They burst into Room Seven - just too late. The villains have fled, but their cards remain on the table: North: 2, 4, 10; East: 8, 9, J; South: 1, 7, K; West: 2, 5, 9. Which player can create the most numbers? How many?

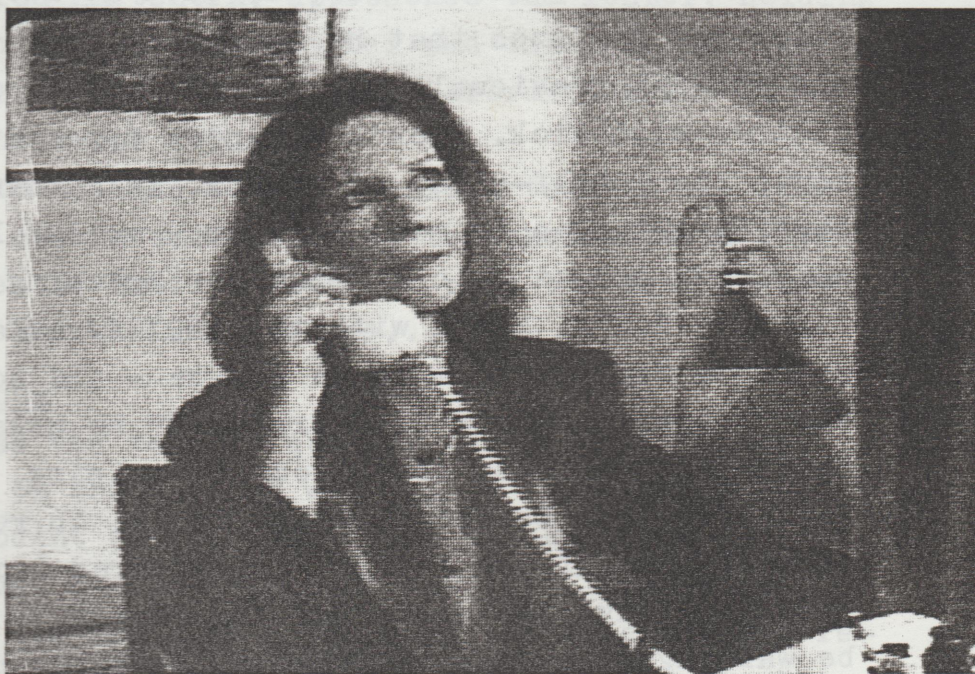
Episode 4: Solid clues

The three cards yielding the most numbers were held by South, a certain Lucy Digby, who must therefore have the Factor's instructions. Rick and Sam manage to extract the envelope from Lucy's handbag, photograph the instructions and replace them without arousing suspicion.

The instructions lead them to the private address of Professor Martin of the Elmsdale Research Centre where DD2X is tested. 'The formula,' the instructions read, 'is in the safe in the study. For the key to open the safe see below. Note the safe and other furnishings.' Below is what appears to be a partially completed table:

	C	O	D	T
F	6			
E	12			
V				

Lisa Wentworth
(Catherine Schell)
listens to what
Rick and Sam found
out...



Rick and Sam gain access to the study where the 'Security 12' safe evidently need 12 numbers (not necessarily all different) to open the combination lock. After some false starts, they decide that the letters in the table stand for Cube, Octahedron, Dodecahedron, Tetrahedron; Faces, Edges and Vertices - the table al-

ready shows that a cube has 6 faces and 12 edges. If they can complete the table they will have, they hope, the 12 numbers they want in the order that will open the safe. What are the other numbers in the table?

Episode 5: To make the pattern fit

Sam and Rick complete the table

	C	O	D	T
F	6	8	12	4
E	12	12	30	6
V	8	6	20	4

and use the numbers to open the safe. For the real DD2X formula they substitute a fake with Lucy subsequently steals from the safe. With Hurst, Sam and Rick now keep watch on Lucy's flat, overhearing a telephone conversation in which she arranges to meet a Mr Molyneux who wants to buy the formula. Molyneux and Lucy have not met each other but Lucy has left an identity key for him to pick up in the form of half a 7x2 sheet of stamps, torn along the perforations in a particular way; Lucy herself has the other half. They confront Lucy but before they seize her half-sheet she has managed to tear it up into separate stamps. Sam decides to take Lucy's place but to convince Molyneux they will have to create every possible half-sheet. How many such halves are necessary?

Episode 6: 1 across, 1 down

From a hidden position Sam, dressed as Lucy, sees Molyneux approaching and realizes that he is really Boris Hanovitch, a KGB agent who she has previously met and who would recognise her. She swaps clothes with Rick. Rick's disguise apparently deceives Boris who hands him a half-sheet of stamps. Just then, Boris spots Sam, hastily arranges to meet Rick at a second location, and hurries away. Our heroes quickly find the matching half which Rick now takes to Boris, along with the DD2X formula. Boris, however, recognises that the formula is a fake - and so is 'Lucy'. He removes Rick's wig. "Section Q, I presume?" he asks.

Rick admits defeat. After some bargaining, they agree on a deal. Rick will keep Boris' name out of it; in return Boris will reveal the location of the 'drop' - a numbered locker at a factory where he is to leave the money for the Factor to collect - Section Q can be waiting there for the Factor. Within a rectangle, says Boris, draw a number of lines from side to side and another number of lines up and down. The number of spaces created will be the number of the locker. "First find the rule for any two numbers, then apply it to the two numbers which I shall give you."

Boris runs away but leaves the wig behind. Tucked into the lining Sam finds the address of a factory. It includes the postcode H06 13VE... What is the rule? And what is the number of the locker?

Episode 7: F2 to B4



Hurst (Frederick Jaeger) and Lisa Wentworth at a meeting

Sam and Rick have arrived at the rule: $(H0 + 1) \times (VE + 1) \rightarrow$ (no. of spaces). With 6 horizontal and 13 vertical lines this gives 98, the number of the locker they are keeping under observation. An elderly lady, Matilda Hartshorn, approaches the locker, holding a key tagged '98'. Sam and Rick arrest her and take her away for questioning. She appears to be withholding information but it is Hurst who collapses under the strain.

Sam and Rick suggest to Matilda that she take a test on the reactive video, where she sees a simulation of telephone booths with friendly and enemy agents. Matilda does not pass the test in the first try, but she is allowed another one...

Episode 8: Locks and box

Matilda manages to pass the test to qualify for Section Q, but reveals that the '98' on the key tag was really '86' upside down - she is in fact an innocent party. News comes through that some DD2X (the new explosive) has been stolen from the Elmsdale Research Laboratory. At the lab a note is found which leads to a remote hikers' refuge hut. Sam and Rick enter the hut, only to be locked in by Hammond, an agent of the Factor. A flask of the deadly chemical has been fixed to the wall, wired to a time-fuse outside. DD2X explodes on contact with inorganic substances: their only hope of escaping alive is to make, from an organic substance,

a container into which they can pour the DD2X.

A piece of cardboard is available, 18 cm square. They could cut squares off its corners, fold it up to make a (lidless) box containing the largest possible volume... but how big should the squares be?

Episode 9: Seven times able

Sam and Rick make the box, the DD2X is returned to Prof. Martin at the lab. Hammond is missing. Lisa Wentworth arrives to take charge of the case but she and Prof. Martin get kidnapped by Joseph and Hammond - Hurst, Sam and Rick give chase but lose them. We find Martin being interrogated by the Factor: a veiled threat of harm to Lisa persuades Martin to reveal the instructions for making DD2X. Hurst is phoned by the Factor: if Section Q wish to find Martin and Lisa they must start at the stone cross on Elmsdale Moor and 'follow the sevens' - go 7 km East, 4 km North, 1 km West, 8 km South, etc., the successive numbers of kilometres being the successive 'units' digits of the 7 times table (with 0 counting as 10), and the successive directions being E, N, S, E,... in rotation. After 20 stages, says the Factor, they should find their friends - if not they should try a number other than 7. In relation to the cross, where will they end up?

Episode 10: The fourth term (Last episode)

The 'multiplication spirals' all lead back to the Stone Cross where Sam and Rick find a plaque referring to a manor. Hurst goes there and finds Lisa and Martin bound and gagged. A radio call enables some colleagues to intercept a car containing Joseph and Hammond but the Factor has got away - with the DD2X formula. Under interrogation, Joseph reveals that the factor is planning to escape from the country: a boat will come to Smuggler's bay at dawn - the Factor will give it a signal in the form of a number. Joseph says that the number is the fourth term in a sequence which starts 1, 4, ...

At dawn the Factor waits. A boat draws near. The Factor holds up the number 16. The boat draws up to the beach... but its occupants are not the expected ones. The Factor is unmasked, the formula is safe. Why was 16 the fourth number in the sequence 1, 4, ...

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REMARKS TO MATHSPY

As you have seen, Mathspy is a thriller, and the plot truly thrills the viewer, although a single episode is only 10 minutes long. But the characters have a very good sense of humor, are sometimes even sarcastic. Hurst, the chief of Section Q, always is the idiot when he tries to do something right.

The most remarkable person though is played by Catherine Schell, Lisa Wentworth, and perhaps you may have guessed it - Lisa is The Factor! She appears in episodes 2, 4, 7, 9 and 10, and has a major part only in 2, 9 and 10, but she is brilliant.



Especially in the scene when she is unmasked as The Factor. As Lisa learns she is being trapped, she tries to run away, fully dressed in black. But she is caught by Sam (Seeta Indrani) who also confronts her with her true identity. Lisa sees no way out but tries to defend herself "No, you lied... you lied" and while she says these words, she gets back the dark, masculine voice the Factor always had, to soon change again into Catherine's real voice again.

When you get the chance to watch it, then don't miss it. It is broadcasted in Children's School television early in the mornings.

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